

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*You are welcomed & loved by St Anthony's Community*

*We are transformed through prayer, acts of love, forgiveness, service & stewardship*

PARISH OFFICE: 978-685-7233

FAX: 978-688-4475

Office E-mail: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

Website: [stanthonylawrence.org](http://stanthonylawrence.org)



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*We Adore You, O Christ, and We  
Bless You, Because by Your Cross  
You Have Redeemed the World*



*Exaltation of the Holy Cross -*

عيد ارتفاع الصليب المقدس

## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### Exaltation of the Holy Cross

### Daily Liturgies

**Saturday, September 7 (Eng.)**

*St. Sozon*

**4:00 pm** + 1st Anniversary - Louise Abdulla, By her children and their families

**Sunday, September 8**

*Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

**9:30 am** + Private Intention

**11:00 am** + 40 Day Anniversary - Jean Youssef Hadchiti, By his sister-in law, Grace, wife of Marwane Cherfane, & family

+ 1st Anniversary - Naim El Hachem, By his wife Sonia, his children: Tony, Richard, Ghassan, & Vera, their spouses, and children

### 1st Sunday- SEASON OF THE HOLY CROSS

**Saturday, September 14 (Eng.)**

*Feast Day - Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

**4:00 pm** + Daad Cherabie, By Mr. & Mrs. Ghassan Abou-Ezzi

**Sunday, September 15**

*St. Shaina & St. Sassine*

**11:00 am** + Jeannette Lahoud Nasr, By her children and their families

**Monday, September 9 (Ar.)**

*Sts. Joachim & Anne/ 1Tim 1:1-7, 12-17/ Mt 5:43-48*

**9:00 am** In Honor of Mirna Abou-Ezzi, By her family

**Tuesday, September 10 (Eng.)**

*St. Pulcheria/ 1Tim 1:18- 2:7/ Jn 13:31-35*

**9:00 am** + Madeleine Atallah, By her family

**Wednesday, September 11 (Ar.)**

*St. Theodora of Alexandria/ 1Tim 2:8-15 / Jn 15:12-17*

**9:00 am** + Mary Smeen, By her family

**Thursday, September 12 (Eng.)**

*St. Cornelius / 1Tim 3:1-13/ Mt 22:35-40*

**9:00 am** + Deceased Members of the Goulart & Pereira Families, By Dora Pereira

**Friday, September 13 -**

**NO LITURGY / OFFICE CLOSED**

*St. Christopher / 1Tim 3:14-4:5 / Lk 6:31-38*

### UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

**Catholic Universities of America –  
September 7 & 8, 2024**

Please remember to remit your Fuel/Utilities Envelope. Your contribution helps us keep the Heat on in the Winter and the AC on in the Summer. Thank you!

### PLEASE NOTE

40 Day Liturgies are considered a priority. When necessary, they will be scheduled with other previously reserved intentions.



**Dear Parishioners and Friends,**

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the overwhelming success of our 52nd Lebanese Mahrajan. This milestone achievement is a testament to the enduring legacy of St. Anthony's Church and the unwavering dedication of our community.

We are continuing the legacy of the generations of parishioners who, through their dedication to St. Anthony's, have upheld our traditions since 1901, when the Lebanese community welcomed its first appointed priest, Fr. Gabriel Bistany.

On September 3, 1971, Fr. Semaan Faris, the fifth pastor of St. Anthony, launched the first Annual Mahrajan at Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire. Over the years, countless individuals have transformed the Mahrajan into a joyous celebration of our heritage, tradition, and faith.

I am deeply grateful for the countless hours of volunteer work, generous sponsorships, and unwavering support from our community members. Your participation is essential to the continued success of this cherished tradition.

May God bless and protect each of you and your loved ones. May the memories of our departed ancestors inspire us to carry on their legacy for generations to come.

Thank you again for making our Mahrajan a resounding success.

**Happy Mahrajan, and God bless you all!**

**Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**M-TH** 10:00 am-3:00 pm

**FRI OFFICE CLOSED**

**SAT** By Appointment

**DAILY LITURGIES @ 9 am**

**MON & WED (Ar)**

**TUE & THU (Eng)**

**WEEKEND LITURGIES**

**SAT** 4 pm (Eng)

**SUN** 9:30 am (Eng) 11 am (Eng.& Ar)

**Holy days of obligation:**

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

**MEET OUR PRIESTS:**

**Chorbishop Elie Mikhael**

(305) 807-9087

**Fr. Edgard -Neemtallah- Oneissy**

(857)390-4838

[pastor@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:pastor@stanthonylawrence.org)

**MEET OUR DEACONS:**

*Nadim Daou, James T. Demers,*

*& David Leard*

**Sub-Deacon:** *Antoine Nammour*

**CLERGY DAY OFF**

*Fr. Neemtallah: Wednesdays*

**SACRAMENTS**

**Baptism & Confirmation:**

*1 month in advance with the Pastor,*

**Donations:** *Church: \$200*

*Priest: Free Will*

**Matrimony:** *Arrangements should be made by couples six months prior to the wedding date*

**Donations:** *Church \$500*

*Priest: Free Will*

**Reconciliation:** *One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment*

**Anointing of the Sick:** *Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or unable to come to Church and would like to receive communion at home.*

Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines.



## MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION-MYO

**MYO Co-Leaders: Geryes Geha & Gabrielle AbdulNour**

**Kick Off Event:**

**Sunday, September 8, 2024 @ 5 - 7:00 pm**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In Person registration: **Sunday, September 8, 2024**  
**Following 9:30 & 11 am Liturgies.**

First Class: **Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024 @ 5 - 7 pm**

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/)

## KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

**Meeting:**

**Saturday, September 7, 2024,**  
**11 am- 12:30 pm @ church hall**

*Remember to bring your handbooks to the meetings*  
*New applicants are always welcome*

## KNIGHTS OF MARY

**Co-Chair: Colette Sadek & Gretta Merheb**

**Kick Off Meeting:**

**Saturday, September 21, 2024 @ 4 - 6:30 pm**

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/)



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
*-St. Anthony Council 16204*

**KOC Next Meeting:**  
**Tuesday September 10, 2024**  
**@ 7pm, Church Hall**

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend. For information email: [KOFc16204@gmail.com](mailto:KOFc16204@gmail.com)



*St. Anthony MYA*

## A SAJ EVENT FOR A CAUSE

A Fundraising Effort for  
the MYA Retreat to  
Atlanta, Georgia

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**  
**AFTER BOTH THE 9:30 AND**  
**11:00 MASSES!**

Please join us after mass for breakfast to  
help support our efforts in raising money  
for our trip!

**MYA CONFERENCE 2024**  
Encounter. Engage. Experience. Jesus in the Eucharist.

**SEPTEMBER 27 - 29 - ATLANTA, GA**

**Friday September 27**

5:00 PM	Guest Check-In
6:00 PM	Ramsho
6:30 PM	Dinner
7:30 PM	Bishop's Talk
8:00 PM	Panel Discussion
8:30 PM	Break
8:45 PM	Adoration
9:15 PM	Trivia Night + Ice Cream Bar

**Saturday September 28**

9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
10:00 AM	Breakfast
10:45 AM	Speaker Intro + Talk 1 with Fr. Mitch Paowa
11:30 AM	Breakout Session 1
12:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM	Talk 2 + Q&A with Fr. Mitch Paowa
2:00 PM	Breakout Session 2
2:45 PM	Break
5:00 PM	Adoration and Confession
5:00 PM	Closing Remarks + Q&A
5:30 PM	Break
8:00 PM	Dinner + Halli

**Sunday September 29**

10:30 AM	Rosary
11:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
12:30 PM	Parish Luncheon

\*Schedule is subject to change

This is a Church sponsored event. Please be mindful to dress modestly for all liturgical events and activities. Register now at [mya.org/hytmaron.org/boac-online](http://mya.org/hytmaron.org/boac-online)

**Congratulations!**

**LAKE HOUSE RAFFLE WINNER**

**DENNIS VIEIRA**

**CASH PRIZES RAFFLE WINNERS**

GLORIA AZZI – \$1000  
 CECELIA HATEM – \$750  
 NOLAN LOUGHLIN – \$500  
 MARIO NEHME – \$250

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN  
 SAINT ANTHONY 52nd ANNUAL LEBANESE MAHRAJAN RAFFLE

**Family of St Sharbel & Our Lady of Lebanon Ladies Guild**



Every Tuesday—Zoom Prayer @ 8pm  
Zoom ID: 335616991—Passcode: 816342  
Or you can join by clicking this link:  
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

For more information email:  
[communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org](mailto:communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org)

**SANCTUARY LAMPS**



In Loving Memory of the Deceased Family Members, By Mr. & Mrs. Salim Azzi & Family



In Honor of Our Living Family Members, By Mr. & Mrs. Salim Azzi & Family

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/)

**SAINT ANTHONY CEMETERY**

**Grave Purchase & Burial**

St Anthony Cemetery offers affordable payment plans to fit any family’s budget.  
For more information:

By Phone (During Office Hours) 978-685-7233  
Email [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)  
or Visit: [stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/](http://stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/)

**Cemetery Guidelines**

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/)

**Headstones & Cemetery Markers**

Kindly review the information provided regarding acceptable dimensions per grave/lot on our web-site:  
[stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/](http://stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/).

Please note:

**Double-Depth Graves are considered “One Grave Size”**

**Looking for a Loved one buried at St Anthony’s Cemetery?**

1. Go to [www.stanthonylawrence.org](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org)
2. Scroll to the bottom and click on BURIAL ONLINE SEARCH.
3. Type in the last/first name or in some cases just last name and click search.

**DONATE A TREE- IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE**

Enhancing the beauty of Historic Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Cemetery.

**Plant-A-Tree A**— For a donation of \$400.00: memorial plaque displayed for ten years.

**Plant-A-Tree B**—For a donation of \$250.00: memorial plaque displayed for five years.

**Your Donation is Tax-Deductible**

If you like to donate a tree, please call the office at 978.685.7233 or email us at: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

Tree to be planted: Kousa Dogwood

**TREE OF LIFE**

**BRASS ALUMINUM PLAQUES SIZES:**

1.5” X 3” = \$75 / 3”X 6”= \$150 / 4”X8”= \$250

Please submit your request either by

**Phone: 978.685.7233** or by E-mail:  
[rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)



## THE CROSS AS REVEALING THE INNER LIFE OF GOD, *By Fr. Ron Rolheiser*

There's a particularly poignant line in the account of Jesus' death which says that, when he died, "the veil in the sanctuary was torn from top to bottom." I remember, as a boy, hearing that read in church, picturing it literally, and thinking: "Now they'll know what a terrible thing they've done!" But that line doesn't refer to some ominous, dark sign at the moment of the crucifixion, meant to stun the world and prove it made a gross mistake. It refers to something else, not dark and fateful at all. The sanctuary veil was the curtain that hung between the ordinary people and the holy of holies, the most sacred of all places, and prevented them from seeing what was behind. What the gospel-writers are saying is that, at the moment of Jesus' death, the veil that sits between us and the inner life of God was ripped open so that we can now see what God looks like inside. The cross, then, is the ultimate icon, the real depiction of the Holy. It shows us God's heart, the inner life of the Trinity. How is this so? On the cross, there is not just one person, Jesus. Ultimately all three persons in the Trinity – Father, Son, and Spirit – are on the cross. On the surface, of course, we see Jesus, the Son. What's he doing? He's suffering and dying, but in a particular way. He hangs on the cross in anguish, dying, alone, humiliated, misunderstood, but he also hangs there in trust and fidelity, giving his life away without resentment, recrimination, and bitter questioning because he knows and trusts someone deeply enough to, literally, believe in the sun even when it isn't shining, in love even when he isn't experiencing it, and in God even when God is silent. We see Jesus on the cross, but we see him there clinging to someone else with a trust that turns hatred into love, curses into blessing, bitterness into graciousness, recrimination into understanding, and God's silence into faith. On the cross we see one person, but as being held and empowered by somebody else. Less visible, but clearly there as the recipient of this trust, present as the one about whom this drama is ultimately about, is the Father. He is also on the cross, suffering with the son, holding the son in this darkness, showing himself worthy of trust, and trusting the son not to short-circuit the tension so that God's response, the resurrection, can be what it should be, not an act of vengeance, nor a bullying definition of whose in charge, but an act of unfathomable redemption, understanding, forgiveness, and love, an act that, more than anything else, defines God. The Father is there too on the cross, suffering, waiting in patience, empowering another to trust. Finally, the Holy Spirit is also on the cross, uniquely generated and released by what unfolds there. As the drama of the crucifixion, this deep interplay of giving and receiving in love and trust, is taking place, a forgiving warmth, a healing fire, and an unfathomable patience and understanding are being produced, revealed, and released. That energy, the ultimate oxygen, which the gospels depict as spilling out of Jesus' pierced side as blood and water, is the Holy Spirit and that Spirit reveals precisely what is going on inside of God. What is happening there? Inside of God, as we can see from the cross, there is no bitterness, vengeance, loss of patience, or lack of graciousness (not a single trace). When the veil inside the temple is torn, when the side of Jesus is pierced, what we see, what flows out, is only forgiveness, patience, gentleness, understanding, and warm invitation. We have an analogy for this, however inadequate, inside human relationships. Whenever two people love each other so deeply that the power of that love enables them to trust enough so as not to grow embittered, recriminating, and questioning of God in times of pain and darkness, than that love becomes an energy, a warm spirit, an oxygen, that empowers everyone who comes into contact with it. You see this in a good marriage, where the love and trust that a man and a woman have for each other become something akin to a warm fireplace that warms everyone around them. From their side too flows "blood and water", a spirit and a baptism. But that only happens when their love for each other is of the kind that enables them both to sweat blood in the garden rather than give in to bitterness, recrimination, and the temptation to make God prove himself. A good love empowers both parties to carry the burdens of others as well as the burden of doubt, without resentment. The cross is an icon of this kind of love. It defines God as love and gives us a picture of what that kind of love looks like.

# Our Lady Of Purgatory Church



## Lebanese Festival

Food . Bar . Live Music . Saja . Raffles . Dancing .

Friday, September 13, 2024

5:00PM - 11:00PM

Saturday, September 14, 2024

12:00PM - 11:00PM

Live Entertainment



George Maalouf & Band



George Dib & Mitchel Kaltsounas



Money Raffles Prizes  
\$1,000 - \$500 - \$200  
Drawing  
Saturday, September 14, 2024  
10:30PM

4254 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA 02745

In Remembrance of our Unborn Brothers and Sisters

### National Day of Remembrance of Aborted Children

Saturday, September 14, 2024 @ 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Merrimack Valley Memorial Service for Aborted Children



WHERE: St. Mary's Cemetery  
29 Barker Street Lawrence, MA

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

- September 7:** Cynthia Ayoub, Violette Hawwa, Adriana Ndaira, Eleanor Tarness
- September 8:** Sahar Cordes, Taline El Hachem, Charbel Sadek, Michael Sader, Charbel Zaarour
- September 9:** Mirna Abou-Ezzi, Eleanor Gharios, Amelia Gharios, Luka Hayek, Linda Khoury, Ethan Rheault, Pauline Rizk
- September 10:** Anthony Abi-Nader, Lola Abou-Khalil, Taylor Roy, Rita Zaarour
- September 11:** Alexa Bassil II, Youssef Bechara, Elias Chaya, Vincent Di Tomaso, Tony Harb, Carla Khoder, Pierre Younes
- September 12:** Gretchen Akiki, Amanda Belko, Dianne Dewan, Heaven Kareh, Fadi Khoury, Irah Rodriguez, Ashley Switala, Joseph Zaarour
- September 13:** Kayla Bouchrouche, Donna Kattar, Richard Kayrouz, Tony Khoury

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- September 7:** Joseph & Roula Nassar, Edward & Barbara Zraket
- September 8:** Brian & Linda Khoury
- September 9:** Paul & Jacqueline Bou Jabbour, Abdo & Amanda Iskandar
- September 10:** Charbel & Rona Dagher, Juliano & Mireille Joumaa, Elie & Lina Merheb
- September 11:** Robert & Doreen Hamman
- September 12:** Mitri & Molly Nader
- September 13:** Elie & Tanya Abdilmasih, Danny & Marla Abourjeili

## Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

*Book of Exodus 17: 8-15*

Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose some men for us and go out; fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword. Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Write this as a reminder in a book and recite it in the hearing of Joshua: I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.' And Moses built an altar and called it, The LORD is my banner.

*First Letter to the Corinthians 1: 18-25*

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 12: 20 - 32*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, September 7 - 4 pm - Patricia Ferguson*

*Sunday, September 8 -*

9:30 am - Michael Faris

11:00 am - (Eng) Giana Hatem

(Ar) Tony Hashem

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, September 14 - 4 pm - Meaghan Twing*

*Sunday, September 15 -*

9:30 am - Brady Barry

11:00 am - (Eng) Mansour Chaya

(Ar) Amale Chantiri



## عيد ارتفاع الصليب المقدس

## سفر الخروج 17:8-15

وجاءَ الْعَمَالِقَةُ فَحَارَبُوا اسْرَائِيلَ فِي رَفِيدِيمَ. فَقَالَ مُوسَى لِيَشُوعَ: «اخْتَرْنَا لَنَا رَجَالًا وَاخْرُجْ لِمُحَارَبَةِ الْعَمَالِقَةِ، وَغَدًا أَنَا أَقِفُ عَلَى رَأْسِ التَّلِّ وَعَصَا اللَّهِ فِي يَدِي.» فَفَعَلَ يَشُوعُ كَمَا قَالَ لَهُ مُوسَى فِي أَمْرِ مُحَارَبَةِ الْعَمَالِقَةِ. أَمَّا مُوسَى وَهَارُونَ وَحُورُ فَصَعِدُوا إِلَى رَأْسِ التَّلِّ. فَكَانَ إِذَا رَفَعَ مُوسَى يَدَهُ، يَغْلِبُ بَنُو اسْرَائِيلَ وَإِذَا حَطَّهَا، تَغْلِبُ الْعَمَالِقَةُ. وَلَمَّا ثَقُلَتْ يَدَا مُوسَى أَخَذَا حَجْرًا وَجَعَلَاهُ تَحْتَهُ، فَجَلَسَ عَلَيْهِ وَأَسَدَّ هَارُونَ وَحُورُ يَدَيْهِ، أَحَدُهُمَا مِنْ هُنَا وَالْآخَرُ مِنْ هُنَاكَ. فَكَانَتْ يَدَاهُ تَابِتَتَيْنِ إِلَى مَغِيبِ الشَّمْسِ. فَهَزَمَ يَشُوعُ عَمَالِيقَ وَقَوْمَهُ بِحَدِّ السَّيْفِ. وَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِمُوسَى: «اكَتُبْ هَذَا ذِكْرًا فِي كِتَابٍ، وَضَعْ فِي أَدْنَى يَشُوعَ أَنِّي سَأْمَحُو ذِكْرَ عَمَالِيقَ مَحْوًا مِنْ تَحْتِ السَّمَاءِ.» وَبَنَى مُوسَى مَذْبَحًا وَسَمَّاهُ «الرَّبُّ رَابِتِي.»

## رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى أهل كورنثس 1 : 18-25

يا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ كَلِمَةَ الصَّلِيبِ عِنْدَ الْهَالِكِينَ حَمَاقَةٌ، أَمَّا عِنْدَنَا نَحْنُ الْمُخْلِصِينَ فَهِيَ قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ؛ لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: «سَأَبِيدُ حِكْمَةَ الْحُكَمَاءِ، وَأَرْدُلُ فَهْمَ الْفُهَمَاءِ!». «فَأَيْنَ الْحَكِيمُ؟ وَأَيْنَ عَالِمُ الشَّرِيعَةِ؟ وَأَيْنَ الْبَاحِثُ فِي أُمُورِ هَذَا الدَّهْرِ؟ أَمَا جَعَلَ اللَّهُ حِكْمَةَ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ حَمَاقَةً؟ فِيمَا أَنَّ الْعَالَمَ بِحِكْمَتِهِ مَا عَرَفَ اللَّهَ بِحَسَبِ حِكْمَةِ اللَّهِ، رَضِيَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُخْلِصَ بِحَمَاقَةِ الْبِشَارَةِ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ؛ لِأَنَّ الْيَهُودَ يَطْلُبُونَ الْآيَاتِ، وَالْيُونَانِيِّينَ يَلْتَمِسُونَ الْحِكْمَةَ. أَمَّا نَحْنُ فَنُنَادِي بِمَسِيحٍ مَصْلُوبٍ، هُوَ عِنَارٌ لِلْيَهُودِ وَحَمَاقَةٌ لِلْأُمَمِ. وَأَمَّا لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ أَنْفُسِهِمْ، مِنَ الْيَهُودِ وَالْيُونَانِيِّينَ، فَهُوَ مَسِيحٌ، قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ وَحِكْمَةُ اللَّهِ؛ فَمَا يَبْدُو أَنَّهُ حَمَاقَةٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَحْكَمُ مِنَ النَّاسِ، وَمَا يَبْدُو أَنَّهُ ضَعْفٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَقْوَى مِنَ النَّاسِ.

## إنجيل القديس يوحنا 12: 20-32

كَانَ بَيْنَ الصَّاعِدِينَ لِيَسْجُدُوا فِي الْعِيدِ، بَعْضُ الْيُونَانِيِّينَ. فَدَنَا هُوَ لِأَنَّ مِنْ فِيلِبُّسَ الَّذِي مِنْ بَيْتِ صَيْدَا الْجَلِيلِ، وَسَأَلُوهُ قَائِلِينَ: «يَا سَيِّدَ، نُرِيدُ أَنْ نَرَى يَسُوعَ.» فَجَاءَ فِيلِبُّسُ وَقَالَ لِأَنْدْرَاوُسَ، وَجَاءَ أَنْدْرَاوُسُ وَفِيلِبُّسُ وَقَالَ لِيَسُوعَ. فَأَجَابَهُمَا يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: «لَقَدْ حَانَتْ السَّاعَةُ لِكِي يُمَجَّدَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ. الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: إِنَّ حَبَّةَ الْحِنْطَةِ، إِنْ لَمْ تَقَعْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَتَمُتْ، تَبْقَى وَاحِدَةً. وَإِنْ مَاتَتْ تَأْتِي بِثَمَرٍ كَثِيرٍ. مَنْ يُحِبُّ نَفْسَهُ يَفْقِدُهَا، وَمَنْ يُبْغِضُهَا فِي هَذَا الْعَالَمِ يَحْفَظُهَا لِحَيَاةٍ أَبَدِيَّةٍ. مَنْ يَخْدُمُنِي فَلْيَتْبَعْني. وَحَيْثُ أَكُونُ أَنَا، فَهُنَاكَ يَكُونُ أَيْضًا خَادِمِي. مَنْ يَخْدُمُنِي يُكْرِمُهُ الْآبُ. نَفْسِي الْآنَ مُضْطَرَبَةٌ، فَمَاذَا أَقُولُ؟ يَا أَبَتِ، نَجِّنِي مِنْ هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ؟ وَلَكِنْ مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا بَلَّغْتُ إِلَى هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ! يَا أَبَتِ، مَجِّدِ اسْمَكَ.» فَجَاءَ صَوْتُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ يَقُولُ: «قَدْ مَجَّدْتُ، وَسَأَمَجِّدُ.» وَوَسَمِعَ الْجَمْعُ الْحَاضِرُ فَقَالُوا: «إِنَّهُ رَاعِدٌ.» وَقَالَ آخَرُونَ: «إِنَّ مَلَاكًا خَاطَبَهُ.» فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ: «مَا كَانَ هَذَا الصَّوْتُ مِنْ أَجْلِي، بَلْ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ. هِيَ الْآنَ دَيْتُونَةُ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ. الْآنَ يُطْرَدُ سُلْطَانُ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ خَارِجًا. وَأَنَا إِذَا رُفِعْتُ عَنِ الْأَرْضِ، جَذَبْتُ إِلَيَّ الْجَمِيعَ.»



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